IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of Confirmation No.: 9700

Edward G. SHIFRIN et al. Date: June 24, 2009

Serial No.: 10/561,354 Group Art Unit: 3733

Filed: December 19, 2005 Examiner: Jerry L. CUMBERLEDGE

For: STERNAL CLOSURE SYSTEM, METHOD AND APPARATUS THEREFOR

VIA EFS-WEB

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PETITION AND FEE FOR AUTOMATIC EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 CFR 1.17, 1.136(a) AND 35 USC 41(a)8

Sir:

Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) the Commissioner for Patents to extend the time for filing a response to the outstanding Office Action by three (3) month(s). Credit card payment in the amount of \$555.00 is submitted via EFS-WEB for the petition fee in accordance with 37 CFR 1.17 computed as:

__X_ Response within third month ____ not small entity (\$1,110) __X_ small entity (\$555)

You are authorized to charge to our Deposit Account No. 15-0700 any additional amounts owing.

If this petition is inadequate to avoid abandonment, the Commissioner for Patents is petitioned, under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), to extend the time by the number of months which will avoid abandonment under 37 C.F.R. §1.135. The fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 should be charged to our Deposit Account No. 15-0700.

Respectfully submitted,

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE EFS FILING SYSTEM ON June 24, 2009.

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